



Governor Rick Perry

Committee on People with Disabilities

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*For more information on the
Lex Frieden Employment Awards,
visit our website at*

[http://governor.state.tx.us/disabilities/awards/
/employment_awards/](http://governor.state.tx.us/disabilities/awards/employment_awards/)



Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities

Lex Frieden Employment Awards

**Presented to highlight the efforts
of outstanding employers
to hire and retain
employees with disabilities,
and to recognize Best Practices that
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workplace.**



What is the Governor's Committee?

The Committee is composed of twelve gubernatorial appointed members, at least seven of whom must be persons with disabilities. The Committee is supported by a staff of five state employees. Officials from various Texas state agencies serve as advisory ex-officio members.

What does the Committee do?

The Committee and staff serve as subject matter sources of information on the abilities, rights, problems, and needs of Texans with disabilities. They advise the Governor and the legislature on issues related to Texans with disabilities. Although the Committee does not have enforcement legislation linked to its enabling statute in the Texas Human Resources Code, Chapter 115, it develops policy recommendations based on citizen input and research.

Does the Committee work with local committees and organizations?

The Committee develops statewide networks of volunteer community-level committees to help promote dissemination of information and support the rights of Texans with disabilities. It provides information and technical assistance to public and private agencies and businesses to promote and facilitate disability rights laws.

What are the Lex Frieden Employment Awards?

Since 1979, the Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities has worked to highlight the efforts of employers to hire and retain employees with disabilities, and to recognize Best Practices that positively affect employees with disabilities within the workplace.

An employer whose philosophy is to support employment opportunities for all Texans, including people with disabilities, benefits the local community as well as the state. The attitude of working as a strong partner in the community is considered an admirable strength to be highlighted, acknowledged and encouraged by the presentation of GCPD's **Lex Frieden Employment Awards**, named for the well known disability rights champion and independent living movement leader who is regarded as one of the architects of the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Each October (during **NDEAM, National Disability Employment Awareness Month**), a local committee in Texas hosts the Awards Ceremony.

To increase awareness of the benefits of hiring people with disabilities, each October the Governor's Committee also produces and distributes the **NDEAM Poster**, free of charge, featuring artwork by a Texan with a disability.

Categories for the LEX FRIEDEN EMPLOYMENT AWARDS

The Martha Arbuckle Award recognizes an innovative Local Committee project.

Employer Awards are presented in four categories:

Small Employer (25 or fewer employees)

Medium Employer (26 to 500 employees)

Large Employer (500+ employees)

Non-Profit Employer

The Entrepreneurship Award is awarded to a living entrepreneur with a disability who has shown extraordinary ingenuity and drive to create and sustain a successful business that has created jobs and accessible services.

The Governor's Trophy is the Governor's Committee's highest honor and is awarded to the person who has achieved extraordinary success in enhancing the empowerment and employment of Texans with disabilities. The Governor's Trophy recognizes long-term commitment and outstanding efforts at both the community and state level.

Nominations, including self-nominations, in any of these categories are encouraged. Submission Guidelines and Entry Forms can be found on our website at:

http://governor.state.tx.us/disabilities/awards/employment_awards/